

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

# PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

|  |   |   |                  |
|--|---|---|------------------|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference<br><b>PCT 21457</b>  | <b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>   |   | See item 4 below |
| International application No.<br><b>PCT/US2004/040616</b>  | International filing date ( <i>day/month/year</i> )<br><b>06 December 2004 (06.12.2004)</b> | Priority date ( <i>day/month/year</i> )<br><b>10 December 2003 (10.12.2003)</b> |                  |
| International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated)<br>See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237 |   |   |                  |
| Applicant<br><b>MERCK &amp; CO., INC.</b>  |   |   |                  |

|   |                                     |   |                     |                          |                   |          |                          |                    |  |                          |                   |                            |                                     |                  |   |                          |                   |                         |                          |                    |  |                          |                     |   |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------------|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).</li> <li>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.<br/><br/>In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.</li> <li>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:           <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%; text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><b>Box No. I</b></td> <td>Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><b>Box No. II</b></td> <td>Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><b>Box No. III</b></td> <td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><b>Box No. IV</b></td> <td>Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><b>Box No. V</b></td> <td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><b>Box No. VI</b></td> <td>Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><b>Box No. VII</b></td> <td>Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><b>Box No. VIII</b></td> <td>Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table> </li> <li>4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).</li> </ol> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <b>Box No. I</b>  | Basis of the report | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Box No. II</b> | Priority | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Box No. III</b> | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Box No. IV</b> | Lack of unity of invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <b>Box No. V</b> | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Box No. VI</b> | Certain documents cited | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Box No. VII</b> | Certain defects in the international application | <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Box No. VIII</b> | Certain observations on the international application |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Box No. I</b>                    | Basis of the report   |                     |                          |                   |          |                          |                    |  |                          |                   |                            |                                     |                  |   |                          |                   |                         |                          |                    |  |                          |                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Box No. II</b>                   | Priority  |                     |                          |                   |          |                          |                    |  |                          |                   |                            |                                     |                  |   |                          |                   |                         |                          |                    |  |                          |                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Box No. III</b>                  | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability  |                     |                          |                   |          |                          |                    |  |                          |                   |                            |                                     |                  |   |                          |                   |                         |                          |                    |  |                          |                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Box No. IV</b>                   | Lack of unity of invention  |                     |                          |                   |          |                          |                    |  |                          |                   |                            |                                     |                  |   |                          |                   |                         |                          |                    |  |                          |                     |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   | <b>Box No. V</b>                    | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |                     |                          |                   |          |                          |                    |  |                          |                   |                            |                                     |                  |   |                          |                   |                         |                          |                    |  |                          |                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Box No. VI</b>                   | Certain documents cited   |                     |                          |                   |          |                          |                    |  |                          |                   |                            |                                     |                  |   |                          |                   |                         |                          |                    |  |                          |                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Box No. VII</b>                  | Certain defects in the international application  |                     |                          |                   |          |                          |                    |  |                          |                   |                            |                                     |                  |   |                          |                   |                         |                          |                    |  |                          |                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | <b>Box No. VIII</b>                 | Certain observations on the international application   |                     |                          |                   |          |                          |                    |  |                          |                   |                            |                                     |                  |   |                          |                   |                         |                          |                    |  |                          |                     |   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>The International Bureau of WIPO<br/>34, chemin des Colombettes<br/>1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland</p> <p>Facsimile No. +41 22 740 14 35</p> | <p>Date of issuance of this report<br/><b>12 June 2006 (12.06.2006)</b></p> <p>Authorized officer<br/><b>Athina Nickitas-Etienne</b></p> <p>Telephone No. +41 22 338 89 95</p> |
|--|--|

Form PCT/IB/373 (January 2004)

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From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

To:  
MERCK & CO., INC.  
126 EAST LINCOLN AVENUE  
RAHWAY, NJ 07065-0907

PCT

REC'D 10 JUN 2005

WIPO

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year)

08 JUN 2005

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

Applicant's or agent's file reference

PCT 21457

International application No.

PCT/US04/40616

International filing date (day/month/year)

06 December 2004 (06.12.2004)

Priority date (day/month/year)

10 December 2003 (10.12.2003)

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

IPC(7): A61K 38/00 and US Cl.: 514/9

Applicant

MERCEK & CO., INC.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

|                                     |              |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I    | Basis of the opinion   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. II   | Priority   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. III  | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. IV   | Lack of unity of invention   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V    | Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VI   | Certain documents cited  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VII  | Certain defects in the international application   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application  |

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later. For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

Authorized officer

Roy Teller

Telephone No. 571-272-1600

Form PCT/ISA/237 (cover sheet) (January 2004)

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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/US04/40616

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.  
 This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
  - a. type of material  
 a sequence listing  
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
  - b. format of material  
 in written format  
 in computer readable form
  - c. time of filing/furnishing  
 contained in international application as filed.  
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3.  In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.  
PCT/US04/40616

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43 bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)                      Claims 1-19 YES  
                                      Claims NONE NO

Inventive step (IS)              Claims 1-19 YES  
                                      Claims NONE NO

Industrial applicability (IA)    Claims 1-19 YES  
                                      Claims NONE NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Claims 1-19 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(3), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a method to inhibit or reduce alcohol consumption by administering a selective melanocortin 4 receptor agonist to the subject.

Claims 1-19 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus meet industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.